

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01901 091402Z

42

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 W
----- 056459

R 091305Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9932
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 1901

PANAMA FOR OIC/RTC AND SEABEE DOUBLAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: COM FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE

REF: STATE 055631

1. EMBASSY HAS CONSIDERED DEPT'S PROPOSAL FOR RETURNING SUBJECT VEHICLE TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR COMPLETE OVERHAUL. WE BELIEVE THAT COSTS OF OVERHAUL, TRANSPORTATION AND LOSS OF VEHICLE'S SERVICE DURING REQUIRED 3-6 MONTH PERIOD RENDER PROPOSAL UNFEASIBLE. AS MENTIONED LA PAZ 226, THIS 1971 VEHICLE IS IN POOR OPERATING CONDITION AND SHOULD BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY.

2. ROUND-TRIP SHIPPING COSTS FOR VEHICLE, INCLUDING BOXING, ESTIMATED AT UPWARDS OF DOLS 1,000. ONE-WAY TRANSIT TIME FOR HEAVY CARGO SUCH AS VEHICLES IS NORMALLY 1 1/2 MONTHS AND SOMETIMES MORE.

3. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAST YEAR HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY CALM, RECENT EPISODES OF VIOLENCE IN UNIVERSITY AND LABOR CIRCLES, AND THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF SMALL CLANDESTINE TERRORIST GROUPS IN COCHABAMBA AND THE ARGENTINE BORDER AREA, PORTEND A MORE DIFFICULT YEAR FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SECURITY. IN THIS

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ATMOSPHERE OF INCREASING TENSION, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES

IT WOULD BE A BREACH OF SECURITY TO DO WITHOUT AN
ARMORED VEHICLE FOR THE AMBASSADOR FOR MORE THAN A
VERY BRIEF INTERVAL.
STEDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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